THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) There is a proposal to avail of consultancy services of M/s. SSP of Malaysia in respect of double tracking of Ipoh Padang Besar Railway Line Project to be undertaken by IRCON.

(b) The news item published in 'Jansatta' of 23rd February, 2002 is in the notice of the Ministry.

(c) The procedure is being followed. The proposal to consider M/s. SSP has been approved by the Board of Directors of IRCON International Ltd.

(d) At present, sixty four projects are being run by IRCON. Prequalification/bids have been submitted by IRCON for 20 projects.

Second Railway Bridge on Birupa and Mahanadi

2163. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the second bridge at Birupa and Mahanadi is a serious bottleneck towards any development of Railways in Orissa;

(b) if so, whether the railways have identified this problem and taken any steps in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, work of construction of 2nd bridges on Birupa and Mahanadi rivers has been included in the budget. The work would be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.

Termination of Contract between CONCOR and CIMMCO

2164. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CONCOR has decided to terminate Trunche II contract awarded to M/s. CIMMCO Birla Limited (CIMMCO), for procurement of wagons under World Bank aided project;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) the amount paid as advance for M/s. CIMMCO Birla Limited and the loss sustained in this contract?